

Anger of the Lamb press

12. Are you bothered that after the effort you put forth in the Red Cross Relief Benefit, this organization is now mired in controversy over misdirected allocation of charity donations?

I'll let Bill O'Reilly handle the Red Cross controversy; he is doing a good enough job with it. I do believe that every cent that was donated to the 9/11 charity should be given to the families. I just think it comes down to the fact that no one was prepared for the 11th, including the American Red Cross. I am not bothered by it...I know that the donations made by people who attended the 9/29 benefit had the best of intentions. All I can do is Donate the money. All the beaurocratic red tape involved afterwards is out of my control. The 29th was a very emotional and vigilant evening for us all, something I will never forget. Hopefully the families and victims of WTC know that we stand united with them. In the end, I am confident that all these families will be taken care of by the federal government as well as charitable organizations to the best of their abilities.

13. Being an artist is one thing, but being a community-minded artist such as you is another. Do you think that community-mindedness is inherent to the social responsibilities of artists, since unlike European countries that often fund private artists, American artists are more accountable in keeping the artistic spirit vital and breathing?

Community-mindedness is definitely essential. You have to be in touch with your "community" whether that means your hometown community, national community, whatever. It keeps musicians here in the states honest as well. If you can't relate to a certain type of people, you can't get anywhere. That in itself should force musician's to realize how much being in touch with people and society has to do with your overall success. To me, it's common sense to be involved with your community, for nothing else than it is just the right thing to do. I don't think it is necessarily my job to be a role model, but I do consider it my job to be spokesperson, and to speak out for a certain group of people out there, whoever they may be, that deal with the same things I do. It's all part of being a human being. If you pay attention to people and the society we live in and you can transcend that into art, you will always be able to succeed because you are dealing with real human emotion.

14. Brian Snell editorial - Anything you've particularly wanted to voice your mind about lately:

Nothing that isn't already being beaten to death by the media already. I think we are doing a pretty good job voicing our opinions through things like the 9/29 benefit, Revolution 2002, and the general philosophy of Anger of the Lamb. Each of these has their own particular meaning and social significance behind it that we are trying to get across. There will be more of this in the future as well. It has always been said that actions speak louder than words, and for this question in particular I will let that be my answer